

CLAIMS

1. A computer pointing device comprising:
an inaudible moveable input.
2. The device of claim 1 wherein said inaudible moveable input generates a user input signal that is communicated to a computer.
3. The device of claim 2 including an interface for communicating said user input signal to the computer.
4. The device of claim 3 including at least one resilient member responsive to movement of said input.
5. The device of claim 4 wherein said resilient member is moveable between an engaged position and a disengaged position with said interface and wherein contact between said resilient member and said interface is inaudible.
6. The device of claim 1 including a switch operably coupled to said input for converting said inaudible moveable input to an audible moveable input.

7. The device of claim 1 wherein said inaudible moveable input comprises a button on a mouse and wherein activation of said button is silent.

8. A computer pointing device comprising:
- an interface for communicating user input to a computer and including at least one interface electrical contact;
- at least one resilient member including at least one resilient member electrical contact for selective engagement with said interface electrical contact; and
- at least one user input member cooperating with said resilient member to selectively engage and disengage said resilient member electrical contact from said interface electrical contact wherein said resilient member electrical contact inaudibly engages said interface electrical contact in response to user input to said input member.
9. The device of claim 8 including a switch operably coupled to said input member for converting inaudible engagement between said resilient member and interface electrical contacts into audible engagement between said resilient member and interface electrical contacts.
10. The device of claim 9 wherein said switch moves said input member between an audible click position and an inaudible click position.
11. The device of claim 10 wherein said switch comprises a guide cooperating with said input member to move said input member relative to said resilient member as said input member moves between said audible and inaudible click positions.

12. The device of claim 11 wherein said guide comprises a track and said input member comprises a tactile input having an upper surface for selective tactile engagement by a user and a bottom surface supporting a protrusion extending toward said resilient member, said protrusion being slidably received within said track.

13. The device of claim 12 wherein said tactile input includes a knob operably coupled to said protrusion to move said protrusion between said audible and inaudible click positions.

14. The device of claim 11 wherein said input member is closer to said resilient member electrical contact in said inaudible click position than in said audible click position.

15. The device of claim 8 wherein said resilient member comprises a cantilever spring having a first end held fixed relative to said interface and a second end moveable relative to said interface, said resilient member electrical contact being positioned at said second end.

16. A method for operating a computer pointing device comprising the step of:
inaudibly moving an input to communicate a user input signal to a computer.
17. The method of claim 16 including the step of switching between inaudible and audible movement of the input.
18. The method of claim 17 including the steps of positioning at least one resilient member immediately adjacent the input, depressing the input to issue a click command, and providing inaudible movement of the resilient member in response to receipt of the click command.